

**Proclamation 6893—Mother's Day, 1996**

*May 7, 1996*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

America's mothers hold a special place in our hearts, providing the lessons and care that have enabled generations of children to embrace the opportunities of this great land. They embody the compassion, devotion, and energy that have always defined our national character, and their daily efforts anchor our country's commitment to the fundamental values of respect and tolerance. Mothers impart both the strength that enables us to face our challenges and the love that comforts and sustains us.

As we honor our Nation's mothers for past and present accomplishments, we recognize that mothers' roles have changed significantly in recent years. Today, mothers are CEOs and teachers, physicians and nurses, elected officials and PTA presidents, police officers and volunteers, homemakers and heads of households. Many serve on the front lines of the struggle against violence and poverty. These women—problem-solvers, caregivers, and teachers—are using their talents in every sector of our society, helping all Americans to look forward with hope and faith in the future.

Mother's Day has long been a welcome opportunity to celebrate motherhood and to remember our mothers—whether biological, foster, or adoptive. To reflect on all we have gained from our mothers' guidance and to remember their sacrifices, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May each year as "Mother's Day" and requested the President to call for its appropriate observance.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 12, 1996, as Mother's Day. I urge all Americans to express their gratitude for the many contributions made by our mothers and to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

**Remarks at a Democratic Dinner in Jersey City, New Jersey**

*May 7, 1996*

Thank you very much. Thank you so much. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the warm New Jersey welcome. Whoopie Goldberg, thank you for what you said and what you've done and for all the time you have given and the time you're willing to give because you never forgot where you came from and never stopped caring about how other people are doing who aren't as fortunate as you are. Thank you, and God bless you.

I want to thank all the dinner Chairs and Chairman Fowler and your State chairman, Tom Byrne, and my former colleagues, Jim Florio and Brendan Byrne, and Peter Duchin who've I've been enjoying for a year or 2 now, since I was a younger man.

I want to say a special word of appreciation to Ray Lesniak because it's his birthday tonight, so I know we're all glad—[*applause*]. I want to thank Senator Lautenberg for what he said and for what he's done in Washington, for standing up especially for the environment under a period of incredibly intense assault from the majority in Congress. [*Applause*] Yes, you ought to clap for him because he did that.

And as he leaves the United States Senate, I'd like to thank Senator Bradley for his 18 years of service to New Jersey and to America, for many, many years of friendship, counsel, and advice to me, and for the support that he gave this administration in the last 3½ years. I know we all wish him well, and we know that the next chapter of his life will doubtless be just as exciting as the ones that